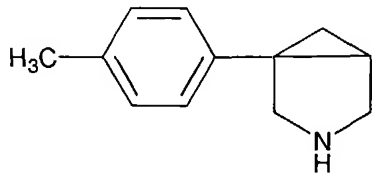
What is claimed is:

[cl1] 1. A method for reducing pain in a patient in need of said treatment comprising orally administering to said patient in a unit oral dosage form a composition containing from about 25 to 600 mg. of an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt,

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in an amount of from about 40% to 60% of weight of said composition, and from about 15% to 50% by weight, of said composition of, a hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose hydrophilic slow release polymer matrix, said unit dosage being orally administered to said patient from once to twice a day.

[cl2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said dosage form is a tablet.

[cl3] 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the polymer matrix hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose is present in an amount of from about 20% to 40% by weight of the composition.

[cl4] 4. The composition of claim 3 wherein said polymer matrix has a viscosity of from about 100 to about 100,000 cps.

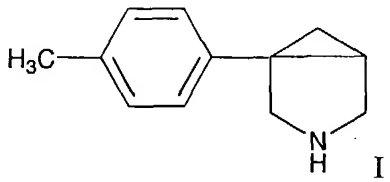
[cl5] 5. The method of claim 2 wherein the carrier is dibasic calcium phosphate.

[cl6] 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the active ingredient is present in the unit dosage form in an amount of about 150-400 mg.

[cl7] 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is suffering from acute pain and the unit dosage form is administered once or twice a day.

[cl8] 8. The method of claim 7 where the patient is suffering from minor pain and the unit dosage form is administered once a day.

[cl9] 9. A unit oral dosage form comprising a composition containing from about 25 to 600 mg. of an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt,

from about 40% to 60% of weight of said composition of pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and from about 15% to about 50% of weight of said composition of a hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose hydrophilic slow release polymer matrix.

[cl10] 10. The unit oral dosage form of claim 9 wherein said composition is in the form of a tablet.

[cl11] 11. The unit dosage form of claim 9 wherein the hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose polymer matrix is present in an amount of from about 20% to 40% by weight of this composition.

[cl12] 12. The unit dosage form of claim 9 wherein said polymer matrix has a viscosity of from about 100 to about 100,000 cps.

[cl13] 13. The unit dosage form of claim 10 wherein said active ingredient is present in an amount of 200 mg.